

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claim 2 has been amended to avoid the alleged indefiniteness and to set forth certain distinctive features of the invention more precisely. Specifically, Claim 2 has been amended additionally to recite that the torque limiter includes a torque transmission plate fixed to a drive member of the damper, and a friction plate held in frictional engagement with the torque transmission plate by a press plate spline-engaged with an inner peripheral portion of a torque transmitting member and pressed toward the torque transmission plate by a press spring. The foregoing features are exemplified in Fig. 1 by the arrangement of torque transmission plate 91, damper drive member 3, friction plate 92, press plate 94 spline-engaged with torque transmitting member 45, and press spring 93.

No teaching or suggestion of the foregoing arrangement is seen in the Reik patent, which was newly cited against Claim 2 in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Claim 2 is believed to distinguish patentably from Reik.

Newly presented Claim 5 is based on previously cancelled Claim 4, but more particularly recites that the friction torque limiter includes a ring member having a conical peripheral friction surface through which torque is transmitted in the single torque transmission path of the apparatus. As such, Claim 5 clearly distinguishes patentably from the Fukushima reference which was applied in the earlier rejection of Claim 4. Fukushima's annular case 1 clearly lacks a conical peripheral friction surface through which torque is transmitted, as recited in Claim 5. Note that conical depressions 53 do not constitute a peripheral surface of case 1.

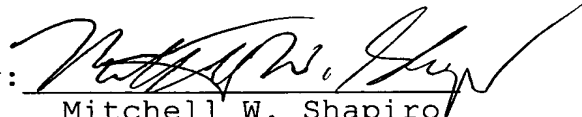
Accordingly, Claim 5 is also believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully requested,

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